

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for developing ~~an inventive idea~~ inventions by a plurality of inventors, said inventors using a plurality of computing devices connected in a network, the method comprising the steps of:

creating a subscriber list, said subscriber list ~~comprised of~~ comprising subscriber records, each of said subscriber records having at least a subscriber name, subscriber contact information, and subscriber qualifications;

receiving a proposal ~~of for an inventive idea~~ invention from by an initial inventor, said ~~patent~~ proposal including desired co-inventor qualifications;

creating a set of desired co-inventor qualifications; and

creating a pool of co-inventors by searching for subscriber records in the subscriber list with subscriber qualifications matching the desired co-inventor qualifications, wherein said co-inventors in said created pool develop the invention described in the proposal for invention.

2. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

contacting subscribers in the pool of co-inventors to inform said subscribers of the ~~inventive idea~~ proposal for invention; and

providing a forum for the pool of co-inventors and the initial inventor to communicate and to further develop the ~~inventive idea~~ proposal for invention.

3. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the subscriber list is maintained as a computer database.

4. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the ~~inventive idea~~ proposal for invention is transmitted over ~~a the network, said network including, wherein~~ at least one of said plurality of computing devices is a terminal used by the initial inventor and at least one of said plurality of computing devices is used ~~a receiving terminal~~ for receiving the ~~inventive idea~~ proposal for invention.

5. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step of creating a pool of co-inventors is performed by an ~~Inventive Idea~~ Invention Proposal Server.

6. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the step of contacting subscribers is performed over a the network, ~~said network having subscriber terminals~~, each of said plurality of computing devices ~~subscriber terminals~~ being ~~connected to said network and~~ accessible by one or more subscribers in the pool of co-inventors.

7. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the step of providing a forum is performed over a the network by an ~~Inventive Idea~~ Invention Proposal Forum Server, ~~said network having subscriber terminals~~, each of said plurality of computing devices ~~subscriber terminals~~ being ~~connected to said network and~~ accessible by one or more subscribers in the pool of co-inventors.

8. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 7, wherein the step of providing a forum further comprises a step of:
providing at least one web page as the forum of the initial inventor and the pool of co-inventors; ~~wherein a the at least one web page is a file viewable in a World Wide Web browser;~~
and ~~wherein~~ the ~~Inventive Idea~~ Invention Proposal Forum Server acts as a web server for said at least one web page.

9. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step of creating a subscriber list ~~comprises~~ further comprising a step of:
contacting, by an individual using a computing device ~~on a network~~, a Subscriber Database;
creating a subscriber record for the individual on the Subscriber Database;
inputting, by the individual, information including, ~~but not limited to,~~ a name of the individual, contact information of the individual, and qualifications of the individual into the subscriber record; and
storing the subscriber record on the Subscriber Database.

10. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step of creating a subscriber list comprises:

establishing non-subscriber criteria;
using said non-subscriber criteria to select individuals;
creating non-subscriber records for said selected individuals, each of said non-subscriber records ~~containing~~ including information about a selected individual; and
maintaining said non-subscriber records on a non-Subscriber Database.

11. (Original) The method as recited in claim 10, further comprising the step of:
adding individuals to the created pool of co-inventors by searching said non-Subscriber Database for non-subscribers that match desired co-inventor qualifications.

12. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein each subscriber record includes a confidentiality level associated with the subscriber.

13. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 12, wherein the step of creating a set of desired co-inventor qualifications further comprises the step of:

establishing a confidentiality level for the ~~inventive idea~~ proposal for invention; wherein said confidentiality level is used to eliminate a subscriber from the pool of co-inventors if the confidentiality level of the subscriber does not meet the confidentiality level of the ~~inventive idea~~ proposal for invention.

14. (Currently Amended) A system for developing ~~an inventive idea~~ inventions by a plurality of inventors, the system comprising:

a network of a plurality of computing devices;
an ~~Inventive Idea~~ Invention Proposal Server for receiving an ~~inventive idea~~ proposal for invention ~~over the network~~, and for creating a pool of co-inventors from a group of subscribers;
a ~~terminal~~ computing devices for transmitting the ~~an inventive idea~~ proposal for invention to the ~~Inventive Idea~~ Invention Proposal Server over the network; and

a Subscriber Database for storing subscriber records, each of said subscriber records having at least a subscriber name, subscriber contact information, and subscriber qualifications; wherein said ~~inventive idea~~ proposal for invention includes qualifications desired in a co-inventor; and wherein the ~~Inventive Idea~~ Invention Proposal Server creates the pool of co-inventors by matching the desired subscriber qualifications with subscriber records having similar subscriber qualifications, wherein said co-inventors in said created pool develop the invention described in the proposal for invention.

15. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 14, wherein the ~~Inventive Idea~~ Invention Proposal Server sends a message to the pool of co-inventors over the network, said message informing each subscriber in the pool of co-inventors of the ~~inventive idea~~ proposal for invention.

16. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 14, wherein the ~~Inventive Idea~~ Invention Proposal Server creates an ~~inventive idea~~ proposal for invention file from the ~~inventive idea invention~~ proposal, said ~~inventive idea~~ proposal for invention file including the ~~inventive idea~~ proposal for invention, a list of members of the pool of co-inventors, and data generated by the initial inventor and the pool of co-inventors.

17. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 16, wherein the ~~Inventive Idea~~ Invention Proposal Server further comprises:

a means by which an ~~inventor~~ group of inventors can access the ~~inventive idea~~ proposal for invention file over the network; and

a means by which the ~~inventor~~ group of inventors can add data to the ~~inventive~~ proposal for invention file over the network;

wherein the ~~inventor~~ group of inventors comprises the initial inventor and the pool of co-inventors.

18. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 16, further comprising:

an ~~Inventive Idea~~ Invention Proposal Web Server for providing at least one web page which is accessible over the network, said at least one web page comprising

- a means by which an ~~inventor~~ group of inventors can access the ~~inventive idea~~ proposal for invention file over the network and
- a means by which the inventor group can add data to the ~~inventive idea~~ invention proposal file over the network;

wherein the ~~inventor~~ group of inventors comprises the initial inventor and the pool of co-inventors; and ~~wherein a~~ said at least one web page is a file ~~viewable in a World Wide Web~~ browser.

19. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 14, further comprising:

- a ~~terminal~~ computing device for transmitting, by an individual ~~on the network~~, subscriber information ~~over the network~~ to the Subscriber Database; wherein at least one subscriber record is created from the subscriber information.

20. (Original) The system as recited in claim 14, further comprising:

- a non-Subscriber Database for storing non-subscriber records, each of said non-subscriber records corresponding to an individual, each of said individuals being selected using said non-subscriber criteria to select individuals.

21. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 20, wherein the ~~Inventive Idea~~ Invention Proposal Server adds individuals to the created pool of co-inventors by searching said non-Subscriber Database for non-subscribers that match desired co-inventor qualifications.

22. (Original) The system as recited in claim 14, wherein each subscriber record includes a confidentiality level associated with the subscriber.

23. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 22, wherein the ~~Inventive Idea~~ Invention Proposal Server uses confidentiality levels in subscriber records to eliminate subscribers whose confidentiality level does not meet a confidentiality level of the ~~inventive idea~~

proposal for invention.

24 - 45 (Withdrawn)

46. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~doing business by providing an inventive idea~~ invention development services of a plurality of inventors, said inventors using a plurality of computing devices connected in a network, the method comprising the steps of:

creating a subscriber list, said subscriber list ~~comprised of~~ comprising a plurality of subscriber records, each of said subscriber records ~~having at least including~~ a subscriber name, subscriber contact information, and subscriber qualifications;

receiving a proposal ~~of an inventive idea~~ for invention from by an initial inventor, said ~~inventive idea~~ proposal for invention including desired co-inventor qualifications; and creating a pool of potential co-inventors by searching for subscriber records in the subscriber list with subscriber qualifications matching the desired co-inventor qualifications; wherein said co-inventors in said created pool develop the invention described in the proposal for invention.

47. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of doing business~~ as recited in claim 46, further comprising the step of:

~~contacting members of the pool of potential co-inventors to inform said members of the~~ inventive idea proposal for invention.

48. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of doing business~~ as recited in claim 46, further comprising the step of:

providing a forum for the pool of co-inventors and the initial inventor to communicate and to further develop the ~~inventive idea~~ proposal for invention.

49. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of doing business~~ as recited in claim 46, further comprising the step of:

obtaining a fee from at least one subscriber, said fee entitling said at least one subscriber to subscribe to the subscriber list.

50. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of doing business~~ as recited in claim 46, further comprising the step of:

obtaining a fee from the initial inventor, said fee entitling said initial inventor to obtain information concerning the pool of potential co-inventors.

51. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of doing business~~ as recited in claim 46, further comprising the step of:

obtaining a fee from a corporation for creating the subscriber list using a subscriber criteria supplied by the corporation, for accepting ~~inventive-idea~~ proposals for invention using an ~~inventive-idea-proposal~~ for invention criteria supplied by the corporation, and for creating a pool of potential co-inventors using a potential co-inventor criteria supplied by the corporation.

52. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~doing business by~~ providing an ~~inventive-idea~~ for fee invention development services of a plurality of inventors, said inventors using a plurality of computing devices connected in a network ~~to a corporation for a fee~~, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a secured forum on a network for a pool of potential co-inventors and an initial inventor to communicate and to further develop an ~~inventive-idea~~ proposal for invention, wherein said co-inventors in said pool develop the invention described in the proposal for invention.

53. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of doing business~~ as recited in Claim 52, further comprising the step of:

providing at least one web page as means for the secured forum of the initial inventor and the pool of potential co-inventors; wherein a the at least one web page is a file ~~viewable in a~~ World Wide Web browser.

54. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of doing business~~ as recited in claim 52, further comprising the step of:

obtaining a fee from at least one member of the pool of potential co-inventors, said fee entitling said at least one member to access the secured forum ~~on the network.~~

55. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of doing business~~ as recited in claim 52, further comprising the step of:

obtaining a fee from the initial inventor, said fee entitling said initial inventor to access

the secured forum on the network.

56. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of doing business~~ as recited in claim 52, wherein the secured forum is on the Internet.

57-81 (Withdrawn)

82. (Currently Amended) A computer system for developing ~~an inventive idea~~ inventions by a plurality of inventors, said inventors using a plurality of computing devices connected in a network, the computer system comprising:

at least one computer-readable memory including:

code ~~that maintains~~ for maintaining a database structure of a subscriber list, said subscriber list ~~comprised of~~ comprising subscriber records, each of said subscriber records ~~having at least~~ including a subscriber name, subscriber contact information, and subscriber qualifications;

code ~~that receives~~ for receiving a proposal ~~of for an inventive idea invention from~~ by an initial inventor, said ~~inventive idea~~ proposal for invention including desired co-inventor qualifications;

code ~~that searches~~ for searching fro subscriber records in the subscriber list with subscriber qualifications matching a set of desired co-inventor qualifications for the ~~inventive idea invention~~ proposal; and

code ~~that creates~~ for creating a pool of co-inventors from a set of subscriber records that match a set of desired co-inventor qualifications, wherein said co-inventors in said created pool develop the invention described in the proposal for invention.

83. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 82, wherein the ~~computer~~ system ~~further comprising~~:

at least one of computer-readable memory further including:

code that maintains ~~an inventive idea~~ proposal for invention forum, said ~~inventive idea~~ proposal for invention forum being accessible to the pool of co-inventors; and said ~~inventive idea~~ proposal for invention forum allowing the pool of co-inventors to post information to an

~~inventive idea~~ proposal for invention file.

84 -87 (Withdrawn)